

Minutes – Joint Meeting

Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID September 10, 2009

Attendance: HED Committee Members Present: John Tronson, Chairperson; Carol Massie, Dan Chismire. Not Present: Hilary Royce, Thaddeus Smith. SVBID Committee Members Present: Travis Serpa, Chairperson; Richard Falzone, Brian Folb, Fabio Conti. Not Present: Fred Rosenthal. Liaisons: Captain Beatrice Girmala, Captain Peter Whittingham, LAPD Hollywood Division; Steve Seyler, Joe Salazar, Mike Harkins, Andrews International; Angela Motta, CD-13; Will Rivera, Office of the City Attorney. Staff: Kerry Morrison, Joe Mariani Jr., Hollywood Property Owners Alliance. Guest: Patrick Russell, the Robert Green Company/Palladium property.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairpersons John Tronson and Travis Serpa at 10:10 a.m.
- II. Public Comment: There was no public comment this month
- III. Minutes: **[for Sunset] It was moved by Richard Falzone, seconded by Fabio Conti and CARRIED to approve the minutes from the Joint Security Committee's July 9, 2009. Unanimously approved.**
[Note: the Hollywood minutes were not approved because a quorum has not arrived by the time of this agenda item.]

IV. Reports

A. Report from Andrews International: Steve Seyler summarized two months of activities in his report, given the August hiatus of the Security Committee meeting. Seyler distributed his report and highlighted significant arrests, noted a recent trend of increasing violence against homeless people and their officers, and discussed some successful outreach strategies.

B. Report from LAPD: Captain Girmala complimented the staff at the Music Box, and the images captured by their video surveillance system, for quick action that allowed LAPD to apprehend a suspect within minutes after he murdered two people, and wounded two others, on the streets of both BIDs. Girmala also reported that the impact made by having the additional deployment of 40 officers in the BID area continues to be quite measurable. Last week for example, she reported there was only 2 aggravated assaults, 1 Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle, 1 robbery and no Grand Theft Auto. Typically, these statistics would be doubled.

Girmala commented on the great partnership between BID security and LAPD, and noted that BID representatives attend the Tuesday crime control meetings at Hollywood Division. She thanked the Palladium for making their facility available last month recently for a youth conference. Finally, she updated the Committee on the tragic

consequences of a recent attempted escape of a prostitution suspect who ended up driving over two police officers, severely wounding both of them.

C. Report from City Attorney: Will Rivera reported that much of his time of late has been spent prosecuting theft cases for local retail stores in Hollywood, particularly Ross and Sephora. He also mentioned that under the leadership of the new City Attorney, the neighborhood prosecutors will become more involved in prosecuting owners of nuisance properties/vacant buildings. He encouraged committee members to bring any such nuisances to his attention.

D. Report from LA County Sheriff: LA County Sheriff was not present.

V. New Business

A. Review of non-lethal use of force options available to BID Patrol.

John Tronson and Travis Serpa discussed a briefing they attended two weeks ago in the BID Security office, attended by Kerry, Andrews International representatives, and Captain Girmala, to discuss adding another option to the BID Security officers' choice of weapons when attempting to restrain or subdue a suspect. At present, officers are trained to use physical means to restrain, and also have access to pepper spray. Between the pepper spray and their weapons, however, there are no other options.

To protect not only the officers, who are finding themselves increasingly facing violent offenders, but also to protect the suspects, a taser option is proposed by Andrews International for consideration by the Security Committee and ultimately the two boards of directors.

Michael Lippiatt, Director of Training for Andrews International demonstrated the taser weapon, and showed its features, which allow for close contact use, or a longer range shot which relies upon two darts attached to wires. He described the video monitoring system located within the unit. He shared a demonstration video of how a situation was diffused through use of a taser, and shared information from other law enforcement agencies throughout the country where injuries to officers, suspects and use of force complaints declined once a taser option was introduced. He indicated that the training regimen that would be used for the taser option would mirror LAPD's training, or be more rigorous.

It was noted that just the presence of a taser as an option to BID security would serve as a deterrent to certain suspects who are familiar with the experience.

Captain Girmala described the range of non-lethal use of force options available to

LAPD before a weapon is needed: physical restraint, asp, baton, pepper spray, taser, and bean bag weapon.

The Committee asked Andrews if it would be advisable to eliminate firearms in lieu of equipping each officer with a taser device. The general reaction was that this would not be advisable: armed officers are afforded greater respect; tasers can only be used at close range; the taser is a one-shot weapon.

Though the Committee seemed favorably disposed to recommending the taser option to the full board (Central Hollywood Coalition for Sunset & Vine BID and Hollywood Property Owners Alliance for Hollywood Entertainment District), the Committee wanted to continue their due diligence for one more month. The Committee asked Andrews International to provide an additional briefing on other non-lethal use of force options at the October 8 meeting so they could be aware of various options before settling on one. In addition, the Committee is particularly interested in technology that allows for audio or video recording of situations to help minimize liability arising from falsified complaints.

VI. New Business

A. Halloween: Morrison reported on a meeting attended by herself and Joe Mariani organized by Captain Girmala to begin preparations for Halloween 2009. In attendance also were representatives from the California Highway Patrol, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Unit and the Chamber. The goal this year is to minimize extraneous traffic arriving in Hollywood to mitigate some of the pressure on streets and sidewalks to accommodate the anticipated large crowds. Ideally, unless an incident occurs, the goal would be to keep streets open to vehicles and sidewalks open to cars in order to allow businesses to prosper. An additional planning meeting will occur in the next several weeks.

VII. Next Meeting: The next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in suite 200 of the Taft Building (1680 Vine St., Los Angeles, CA., 90028).

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by HPOA Committee Chair John Tronson at 11:08 a.m.